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Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

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Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session, a letter addressed to him by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to which is annexed a Ministerial Declaration on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States, adopted by a Special Ministerial Conference held at FAO headquarters in Rome on 12 March 1999, and a Plan of Action on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States, which was developed at the request of the FAO Conference at its twenty-ninth session and endorsed by the FAO Council at its one hundred and sixteenth session.

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Annex

Letter from the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

At the request of the FAO Council at its one hundred and sixteenth session, held at FAO headquarters in Rome from 14 to 19 June 1999, I have pleasure in submitting to you the Plan of Action on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States for consideration by the special session of the General Assembly for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (27–28 September 1999).

This Plan of Action on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States was developed at the request of the FAO Conference at its twenty-ninth session (7–18 November 1997). A draft of the Plan of Action was discussed by a Special Ministerial Conference on Small Island Developing States held at FAO headquarters on 12 March 1999, and a revised version of it was subsequently endorsed by the FAO Council at the one hundred and sixteenth session mentioned above. In addition, the Ministerial Conference adopted a Ministerial Declaration on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States, which serves as an introduction to the Plan of Action (see appendix).

The Plan of Action on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States complements the Barbados Programme of Action by focusing on five commitments related to the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors, namely:

- Adjusting to changes in the global trading environment;
- Moving towards a more intensified, diversified and sustainable agriculture;
- Meeting fisheries needs;
- Ensuring sustainable management of land, water and forestry resources and environmental protection;
- Capacity-building and institutional strengthening.

As stated in the Declaration, the Special Ministerial Conference acknowledged the central place of the 1994 Barbados Plan of Action and recognized that the results of the Ministerial Conference would make an important contribution to the international effort and work of the United Nations in addressing the special needs and problems of small island developing States.

I should appreciate it if you would submit the Plan of Action to the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly to be held in September 1999.

(*Signed*) Jacques **Diouf**

Appendix

Special Ministerial Conference on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States

(Rome, 12 March 1999)

Ministerial Declaration on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States

1. We, the Ministers of Agriculture, Plenipotentiaries and Representatives of countries participating in the Special Ministerial Conference on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States, convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), meeting in Rome on 12 March 1999, recognize the specific constraints of small island developing States and reaffirm our commitment to address their particular needs and our determination to support the sustainable development in small island developing States as a follow-up to the World Food Summit.

2. We acknowledge that small island developing States and low-lying coastal States (small island developing States) vary widely with respect to distinct characteristics, such as natural resources endowments for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, levels of economic development, role of the agricultural sector in the economy, competitiveness in agricultural markets and socio-cultural situations.

3. We also note that small island developing States face common constraints arising from the interplay of factors such as smallness, remoteness, geographic dispersion, vulnerability to natural hazards and peculiar population structure and mobility. We further recognize the vital importance of agriculture, forestry and fisheries and the vital role played by women in those activities, which provide the main source of livelihood, as well as the major revenue for many small island developing States.

4. Acknowledging the central place of the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, we recognize that the results of this Special Ministerial Conference will make an important contribution to the international effort and the work of the United Nations in addressing the special needs and problems of small island developing States.

5. Reaffirming our common determination and strong commitment, expressed during the World Food Summit, we pledge to pursue our efforts towards the achievement of food security and to implement development policies and programmes which secure the sustainability of agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors in small island developing States.

6. We recognize the important role played by FAO in assisting small island developing States in the development of national capacity through normative and complementary field programmes in agriculture, forestry and fisheries of FAO.

7. We have considered the draft Plan of Action on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States, attached to the present Declaration, as a basis for further consideration by appropriate bodies of FAO and other relevant bodies of the United Nations system. We will endeavour to:

(a) Address new challenges in the global trading environment; undertake short-term adjustments; and improve competitiveness in agricultural exports;

(b) Move towards more intensified, diversified and sustainable agriculture in order to: create an enabling environment for agricultural intensification and diversification; remove production constraints; and improve domestic and export marketing and processing;

(c) Meet fisheries needs in order to: improve exclusive economic zones fisheries conservation and management; enhance aquaculture development and inland fisheries; and improve post-harvest fish management, marketing and processing;

(d) Ensure sustainable management of land, water, and forestry resources and environmental protection in order to: promote the conservation and sustainable use of land and water resources and manage sustainably the forest resources; enhance environmental protection; and improve disaster preparedness;

(e) Build and/or strengthen national capacities and institutions to: accommodate and take advantage of the new international trade regime; strengthen support services to agriculture, forestry and fisheries; and provide a coherent framework for sustainable natural resource management and environmental protection.

8. We pledge to foster the Plan of Action on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States through effective and appropriate use of existing international programmes and institutional arrangements.

9. We invite the Director-General of FAO to submit, as early as possible, a developed version of the draft Plan of Action on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States to the FAO Council.

Plan of Action

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Preamble

1. The twenty-ninth session of the FAO Conference, held from 7 to 18 November 1997 stressed the need to recognize the particular constraints of small island developing States and invited the Organization to consider the possibility of organizing an International Conference on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States as part of the World Food Summit follow-up (paras. 45 and 53, C97/REP).

2. The FAO Council, at its one hundred and fifteenth session held in November 1998, stressed the need for special attention to small island developing States; welcomed the preparation for the Special Ministerial Conference on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States in 1999; and appealed to donors for generous support to the organization of the Conference.

3. Earlier, the Inter-regional Conference of Small Island Countries held in Barbados, in April 1992, recommended that the small island countries seek opportunities to meet again with a view to implementing the programme areas of Agenda 21 to be agreed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 47/189 of 22 December 1992, decided to convene a Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which was held in Barbados, in April 1994.

4. The States which participated in the Global Conference affirmed, *inter alia*, that there was an urgent need in small island developing States to address the constraints to sustainable development, including scarce land resources; inordinate pressure on coastal and marine environment and resources; and limited means available to exploit natural resources on a sustainable basis. Since then, a number of related events have taken place at both the international and regional levels. For example, in May 1996, a Technical Consultation on South Pacific Small Island Developing States on Sustainable Development in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, was held in Apia, Samoa, where commitments were made to provide special assistance to Small Island Developing States, particularly within the framework of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which resulted from the 1994 Global Conference. A donor conference with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) was held from 24–26 February 1999.

5. The United Nations General Assembly at its nineteenth special session, held in June 1997, made decisions on the modalities for the full and comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. The General Assembly, by its resolution 52/202, of 18 December 1997, reaffirmed the commitment of the international community to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. It also decided that the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in April 1999 would serve as a preparatory meeting for a special session of the General Assembly in September 1999 which would undertake an in-depth assessment and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action. The organization of the Ministerial Conference on Agriculture in Small Island Developing States and the present Plan of Action represents, therefore, a major contribution to these efforts undertaken by the United Nations to address the particular needs of these countries. By focusing on the specific problems of agriculture, including fisheries and forestry, the Conference deals with a sector that has a key role to play in achieving sustainable food security in the framework of economic and social development.

6. At the World Food Summit, held in November 1996 at the invitation of FAO, heads of State and Government pledged their political will and common and national commitment to achieving food security for all and to an ongoing effort to eradicate hunger in all countries. They acknowledged the fundamental contribution to food security by women, particularly in rural areas of developing countries, and the need to ensure equality between men and women. They recognized the importance for food security of sustainable agriculture, fisheries, forestry, trade and rural development in low as well as high potential areas and called for particular attention to be paid to those countries affected by natural disaster or climate-related ecological changes. They were conscious of the need for urgent action to combat pests, drought and natural resource degradation, including desertification, overfishing and erosion of biological diversity.

7. As pointed out in the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit, small island developing States face the threat of land loss and erosion, owing to climate changes and sea level rises, and have particular needs for their overall sustainable development. Improvements in trade, transportation, communication, human resources, stabilization of income and higher export earnings will increase food security in those countries.

8. In spite of their diversity, small island developing States share common constraints that impede their efforts to develop the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, while preserving their environment. Among the constraints are

fragile ecosystems, vulnerability to natural hazards, poor communication facilities and dependence on external economic factors. On the other hand, most island States have the potential to gradually diversify their economies for export and import substitution, for tourism and for drawing greater benefits from the fisheries resources of their exclusive economic zones (EEZs). In determining their individual development objectives, small island developing States can draw benefit from improved exchange of information with other islands sharing similar problems.

9. Acknowledging the central place of the 1994 Barbados Global Conference on Sustainable Development in Small Island Developing States, the present Plan of Action provides a basis for activities in support of sustainable agricultural development in small island developing States* as a follow-up to the World Food Summit. Actions and policies are designed in particular (a) to prepare the small island developing States for participation in multilateral trade negotiations on agriculture, with a focus on the impact on agricultural trade and the future role of regional trading arrangements involving small island developing States in the multilateral trading system; (b) to develop priority programmes for sustainable, intensified and diversified agricultural production, forestry and fisheries; and (c) to address problems related to natural resource management and protection of the environment. While building on the framework defined by the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and World Food Summit Plan of Action, the present Plan of Action is focused on the specific needs of small island developing States.

10. The international community, comprising the United Nations system, including FAO with its mandate in food and agriculture, special international arrangements, such as the Lomé Convention, bilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, has a key role to play in supporting the implementation of this Plan of Action. Such support could facilitate the adoption of appropriate national policies and, where necessary and appropriate, provide technical and financial assistance to help small island developing States in fostering food security.

* These are the 30 small island developing States and low-lying coastal States that are members of AOSIS and of FAO (Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cape Verde, Comoros, Cook Islands, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominica, Fiji, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Jamaica, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Vanuatu) and three non-AOSIS island States that are members of FAO (Bahrain, Dominican Republic and Haiti).

I. Adjusting to changes in the global trading environment

Basis for action

11. Most small island developing States are net agricultural importers. As a group they are net exporters by a narrow margin and their agricultural exports tend to be highly concentrated in a small number of commodities and markets. While the international trading system has not given small island developing States any particular consideration as a group, most of them receive preferential access to the major developed country markets for selected commodities through special arrangements such as the European Union's Lomé Convention for Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP); and the United States of America's Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI); and/or through the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for developing countries. The benefits accruing from the various preferential trading schemes are concentrated among a few countries and a few commodities, and in many cases the small island developing States have not been able to fully exploit the opportunities available to them.

12. Most small island developing States do not have a comparative advantage in agricultural production overall, however the trade patterns of several of them show a comparative advantage in particular agricultural commodities, and in fishery and forestry products. There is an untapped knowledge base in developing countries, not only with regard to agricultural exports but also to import substitution, and there are successful examples of export diversification and growth from among the small island developing States. Under Lomé IV and other international agreements of interest to small island developing States, provisions are made for technical assistance not only for raising the general awareness of the agreements but also for the development and diversification of products for export in order to expand the benefits from the agreements.

13. The trade liberalization that is occurring as a result of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture will have important consequences for the small island developing States, bringing new challenges and offering fresh opportunities. Small island developing States exports will experience an erosion in tariff preferences and will face stiffer competition. On the other hand, the Uruguay Round opens up opportunities both in primary commodities as well as in higher value processed products for low-cost competitive producers, including many of the small island developing States. In this regard FAO has an important role

to play in providing its members with technical assistance concerning the wide range of Uruguay Round-related issues.

14. The small island developing States that are most dependent on agricultural exports for a significant part of their export earnings have suffered from a long-run decline in real world market prices and a slow growth in world demand for their major agricultural products. Because of the high reliance of their agricultural exports on preferential agreements, small island developing States are exposed to some risks from multilateral trade liberalization, and some of them fear that the coming round of negotiations will increase their exposure to such risks. This would in turn affect their import capacity, including food.

Objectives and actions

15. **Objective 1.1. To respond to the new challenges.** To this end, Governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

(a) Conduct a thorough assessment of the implications of the Uruguay Round for agriculture and food security, so as to be able to identify both the short-term adjustments and a long-term strategy to deal with the expected changes;

(b) Review national food production policies in the light of the Uruguay Round and formulate policy responses to the emerging challenges;

(c) Identify and analyse new opportunities for national agriculture as world trade in agricultural products becomes increasingly free and competitive;

(d) Exploit, if applicable, the provisions made for technical assistance under preferential and multilateral arrangements in favour of developing countries.

16. **Objective 1.2. To undertake short-term adjustments.** To this end, Governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

(a) Seek to take full advantage of the Uruguay Round openings and of current preferential trade opportunities;

(b) Seek to overcome any eventual underutilization of the commodity protocols and seek to capture a greater share of the preferential margins;

(c) Seek to negotiate better access terms to products of which most favoured nation (MFN) tariff rates in the developed markets continue to be high, even after the Uruguay Round.

17. **Objective 1.3. To raise competitiveness in agricultural exports.** To this end, Governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

(a) Undertake in-depth studies on their comparative advantage in the production and export of agricultural products, including diversification possibilities in fast-growing commodities and markets, as well as in higher value processed products;

(b) Promote the production of non-traditional agricultural commodities with good export potential;

(c) Consider lessons learned from other countries that have successfully transformed the composition of their trade from mostly primary commodities to more diversified exports;

(d) Establish a market and trade information system that helps producers and traders in taking better informed marketing decisions.

II. Towards a more intensified, diversified and sustainable agriculture

Basis for action

18. Agriculture in many small island developing States is characterized by a combination of large-scale commercial production of a limited number of export crops and a traditional smallholder sector often dominated by women-headed households which produces food crops primarily for local consumption. That structure is changing, driven by new developments in world markets, trade imbalances and the quest for food security. Limited land area, the paucity of soils suitable for agriculture, the expansion of tourism, increasing urbanization and availability of convenience foods have adversely affected the production of traditional food and led to increases in food imports. Typical constraints faced by producers include inadequate infrastructure, including transport, to support increased and diversified production, a shortage of labour, poor quality and availability of planting material, a lack of efficient pest control and monitoring programmes, post-harvest losses, poor animal health and high cost of purchased feed and of chemical inputs, and weaknesses in both domestic and export marketing. Agricultural research,

mainly government-funded, is constrained by very limited human and financial resources and tends to be oriented to cash crops. It is weakly linked to extension, the farmer and other sectors such as agro-processing and tourism.

19. Faced with the challenge of global competitiveness, small island developing States are looking for opportunities to diversify their economies, especially the agricultural sector, in order to maintain and/or increase their degree of food security and self-reliance by exploiting their resource base more rationally and sustainably. A more holistic approach, to which the normative and operational activities of FAO can make substantive contributions, is needed. This would include, *inter alia*, interdisciplinary studies of ecosystem conservation and management, optimization of mixed crop, tree and animal production systems, including aquaculture, assessment of indigenous knowledge and traditional production systems, and development of appropriate technologies for high and/or low potential areas, including post-harvest processing and marketing. In the new trade environment created by the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture and by changing conditions in food markets in importing countries, small island developing States will have to pay much more attention to the diversification of agricultural commodities into new products (both primary and processed), the quality of their export products (fruit and vegetables, fish, traditional crops such as coconut products) and to regularity of supplies, including meeting the demand created by the tourist sector.

20. Several non-traditional agricultural commodities, particularly but not exclusively in the horticultural area, are among the fast-growing commodities exported by developing countries, including the small island developing States, to the developed country markets. Exports have grown rapidly in recent years for a number of reasons, which include consumer preferences and rising incomes, as well as the ability of supplying countries to raise their capacity to supply adequate amounts of these commodities at competitive prices. A recent FAO study has shown additional export opportunities for these products as a result of the Uruguay Round.

21. Small island developing States in general have a potential for the production of tropical fruits (e.g. papaya, plantain, mango, pineapple, watermelon, etc.), tuber/root crops (e.g. taro, yams, sweet potato, cassava), nuts and spices (e.g. canarium nut, Brazil nut, terminalia nut, vanilla, black pepper), vegetables and cut flowers. The potential for diversification and intensification of these new crops, possibly under organic farming where appropriate, for niche markets remains largely to be explored, possibly with FAO assistance.

Objectives and actions

22. **Objective 2.1. To create an enabling environment for agricultural intensification and diversification.** To this end, Governments in partnership with all actors of civil society and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

(a) Ensure that supporting services to agriculture, such as agricultural research, extension, credit and market information, are in place to allow domestic producers to respond to the new challenges;

(b) Provide an appropriate legal and regulatory framework conducive for the private sector to take initiative;

(c) Pursue agricultural policies that facilitate the adoption of new technologies and support efforts to improve production with a special focus on small producers and family farms;

(d) Pursue policies aimed at improving agricultural productivity and intensifying production of agricultural commodities, diversification into new products (both primary and processed), as well as developing new end uses;

(e) Develop agricultural, trade and marketing policy frameworks that positively affect farmers' decisions about sustainable and intensified farming practices, including diversification, where appropriate;

(f) Review ongoing research and extension programmes with a view to their relevance to the overall objectives for agricultural development and ensure interaction with major groups of users, men and women alike;

(g) Strengthen, where required, normative and control/management activities in the areas of animal and plant health and safety in conformity with the Agreement on the Application on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and other relevant international agreements;

(h) Recognize explicitly the roles and specific constraints of women-headed and women-supported farm households.

23. **Objective 2.2. To remove production constraints.** To this end, Governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

(a) Build a strong seed programme that includes the development of regional technical capability for seed supply, the development of appropriate seed policy, development of a germplasm information network to link up separate islands and bridge information gaps in the region;

(b) Review pest control strategies that are based mainly on the use of pesticides with a view to shift to the practice of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), as an alternative strategy for effective and environmentally safe pest control;

(c) Promote integrated production systems, including integrated plant nutrition systems, soil conservation methods and organic agriculture with a view to enhance soil fertility and maximize the use of locally available nutrients; such systems and methods should, when relevant, build upon farmers' own experiences and indigenous knowledge;

(d) Investigate the use of available renewable energy, and promote energy-saving techniques and waste recycling and recovery, as alternative nutrients and energy sources;

(e) Promote irrigation where technically feasible and economically, socially and environmentally viable;

(f) Promote water harvesting and run-off farming techniques in arid or semi-arid areas;

(g) Assess, where applicable, the scope for appropriate levels of mechanization to overcome problems associated with high cost of labour and labour shortages;

(h) Improve, where applicable, productivity of small-scale poultry and pig production by promoting locally available feeds, diversify through introduction of alternate livestock, such as ducks and pigeons and integration of livestock into mixed farming, tree crop and aquaculture systems;

(i) Strengthen animal health services and promote specific disease eradication programmes (e.g. Tropical Bont Tick in the Caribbean);

(j) Strengthen the sustainability and profitability of existing farming systems using participatory research and extension.

24. **Objective 2.3. To improve domestic and export marketing and processing.** To this end, Governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

(a) Establish adequate food quality control mechanisms at producer, processor and government levels to ensure conformity with basic standards, such as those prescribed by the FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission;

(b) Develop a network for the dissemination of information and data concerning world market conditions and trends for small island developing States agricultural export products;

(c) Review, as appropriate, the roles and functions of marketing boards and consider the building of strategic alliances with market participants (producer/exporter/importer alliances);

(d) Review and assess the adequacy of domestic marketing infrastructure with a view to identifying investment needs for the public and/or private sector and to meet the requirements and quality standards including for the tourist sector;

(e) Encourage, where appropriate, the use of traditional and underutilized food crops and fish resources;

(f) Develop and promote improved food processing, preservation and storage to reduce post-harvest food losses.

III. Meeting fisheries needs

Basis for action

25. Small island developing States have particular fisheries needs. The sustainable use of fisheries resources is essential to ensure continuing supplies of food for island populations and for economic development, including employment opportunities. The long-term sustainability of the fisheries sector is threatened by overexploitation of living marine resources, toxic waste dumping and pollution, and other degradation of coastal habitats, as well as lack of effective surveillance mechanisms at both national and regional level.

26. It is increasingly recognized that conventional approaches to fisheries conservation and management have failed to achieve sustainable resource use in small island developing States and that traditional management practice, which acted to regulate resource access and exploitation by user groups might be used to support conservation and management efforts. A number of small island developing States have benefited from promotion of sports and other fisheries that are an integral component of ecotourism. Usually, such fisheries yield significantly higher financial returns than commercial fisheries that might target the same stocks.

27. In general, inshore capture fisheries adjacent to centres of urban population are heavily fished, if not overfished, while inshore fisheries in outer islands tend to be only lightly exploited because of lower population densities and the paucity of market infrastructure to move product to urban markets. Where offshore capture fisheries and associated

processing provide major economic benefits, additional benefits could be secured from the exploitation of regional fish stocks. FAO directly, or through the Regional Fish Marketing Information and Technical Advisory Services, is providing marketing information and contact with potential buyers. Both inshore and offshore marine capture fisheries are central to tourism in small island developing States. In some of the island countries, inland capture fisheries contribute in a significant way to food security and provide economic opportunities for self-employment, often for women.

28. Factors that constrain the development and management of the fisheries sector in island States include, *inter alia*, a lack of institutional strength and capacity on the part of the public sector, complexities associated with improving inshore fisheries management; high post-harvest losses, owing to poor fish handling, marketing and processing; inadequate safety regulations and systems for fishers, especially those that operate beyond the immediate inshore areas inhibit a better distribution of fishing effort; underdeveloped national fishing industries. Most small island developing States have yet to realize their full potential for the development of aquaculture and inland fisheries. In particular, measures to promote sustainable aquaculture and reef enhancement are required, while ensuring that inland capture fisheries are harvested in a rational manner. As a means of strengthening national capacity in the fisheries sector, the merits of international cooperation among different groups of small island developing States are recognized and encouraged by FAO.

29. An important policy consideration for all small island developing States where there is significant offshore fishing, either within areas of national jurisdiction or on the high seas, is the need to secure additional benefits from the exploitation of fish stocks that occur in their region. Some island States have taken progressive measures to increase their economic linkages with offshore fisheries, *inter alia*, by encouraging the development of national fleets, either through direct investment in vessels or through flag changes. In addition, steps have been taken by some island States to facilitate the use of their ports, and where necessary, to make the generation of secondary economic benefits (e.g. the transshipment of fish in port rather than at sea) conditional on fishing access to their EEZs for both those island States and the foreign fleets. These measures, in many instances, have turned out to be mutually beneficial for both the island States and the foreign fleets. The importance of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Kyoto Plan of Action, the International Coral Reef Initiative and chapter 17 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development's Agenda 21 in the development of a relevant policy framework for sustainable development of the fisheries of small island developing States is to be stressed.

Objectives and actions

30. **Objective 3.1. To improve EEZ fisheries conservation and management**. To this end, Governments, in partnership with actors of civil society, and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

(a) Promote innovative approaches to management that build on traditional institutions and conservation and management knowledge and practice; where applicable, promote community-based fishery management with all socio-economic groups concerned;

(b) Pursue a coordinated set of policies that might address, for example, gender relevant training and extension needs, new vessel design, finance and the need of new port facilities;

(c) Study the feasibility of relocating inshore fisheries effort for the offshore, that is, away from heavily exploited inshore fisheries, and take steps to improve the fishers' knowledge about safety at sea;

(d) Pursue policies that promote private investment, the setting up of fair and development oriented fishing agreements and, where appropriate, joint ventures with foreign fishing groups, and that strengthen the economic role of national fisheries industries;

(e) Take steps to implement the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and to ratify and accept respectively, the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement and the Compliance Agreement, and implement them;

(f) Strengthen and establish, as needed, appropriate regional and subregional fisheries management organizations or arrangements for the effective surveillance and monitoring of fisheries activities.

31. **Objective 3.2. To enhance aquaculture development and inland fisheries**. To this end, Governments, in collaboration with the international scientific communities, in both the public and private sectors, as appropriate, will:

(a) Introduce or strengthen aquaculture and inland fisheries where feasible and appropriate;

(b) Ensure that aquaculture practices are compatible with their ecosystems;

(c) Establish networks to facilitate exchanges of technical information.

32. **Objective 3.3. To improve post-harvest fish management, marketing and processing**. To this end, Governments, in partnership with actors of civil society, and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

(a) Assess domestic market prospects and identify export potentials for fish and fish products;

(b) Assess the requirements for fish handling, processing and marketing equipment and installations;

(c) Identify investment needs required for efficient fish marketing and processing operations and prepare feasibility studies.

IV. Ensuring sustainable management of land, water and forestry resources and environmental protection

Basis for action

33. Small island developing States, as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, are a special case for both environment and development. The land area available for productive purposes is limited, which intensifies competition among alternative land use options. In low-lying coastal areas, land well suited for agriculture is under severe pressure from expanding housing, tourism and other economic activities. Where land is under customary ownership, land-use planning involves many stakeholders and decision makers, which poses specific constraints. Water resources are generally scarce. Climate variability and change and sea-level rise and vulnerability to natural disasters are of particular concern. FAO will support national programmes to enable farmers to make better crop and soil management choices, thus minimizing risks from climate variability and optimizing economic returns, while protecting the natural resource base.

34. Because of the relatively small areas involved, concern for overutilization of forest resources has not attracted much attention. The widespread destruction of protective forests in critical watershed areas has resulted in environmental degradation, critical impairment of water supply and damage to coastal/marine habitats and natural resources. Biological diversity and endemic ecosystems are also at risk. On most small islands, distances between highlands and coastal areas tend to be short and the role of forest ecosystems as regulators for the island environment and protection of the lowlands, human settlements and infrastructure is especially critical. By extension, the sustainability of agricultural productivity and potential greatly depends on the regulating function of forests.

35. The continental shelves and coastal ecosystems of small island developing States are of major economic significance for settlement, subsistence and commercial agriculture, fisheries and tourism. Demands on coastal resources are endangering the long-term supply of these resources: large parts of coastal areas are being polluted by local or upland sources, fisheries over-exploited and fish habitats degraded, coastal belt mangroves cut, wetlands drained, coral reefs destroyed, freshwater aquifers are subject to depletion and salinity, biodiversity conservation is threatened.

36. Geographic location and size render small island developing States particularly susceptible to inclemencies of weather (e.g. tropical storms, hurricanes, typhoons, droughts) and geological hazards (e.g. volcanic eruptions, seismic waves) because when damage occurs, it occurs on a national scale. Epidemics introduced from outside quickly devastate fragile ecosystems. Coastal erosion, as a result of tidal surges, sea waves and winds, is higher than in other countries because of relatively larger exposure of coasts in relation to land mass. The adverse impact of economic activities on the natural environment is felt more than in other countries. Modern information technologies and planning tools, including FAO's Global Information and Early Warning System, provide important elements for designing disaster-preparedness strategies.

Objectives and actions

37. **Objective 4.1. To promote the conservation and sustainable use of land and water resources and manage sustainably the forest resources**. To this end, Governments, in partnership with actors of civil society, and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

(a) Promote the adoption and implementation of a land and water-use planning approach, which takes into consideration the linkages and interactions between the various ecosystems and economic sectors;

(b) Pursue a holistic and integrated approach to the conservation and sustainable use of forest resources, taking into account the multiple role of forests and trees;

(c) Promote rehabilitation and conservation of forestlands and watersheds and, where necessary and

sustainable, upgrade the productive capacity of those resources and ensure sustainable forest management and sound harvesting practices;

(d) Combat land degradation and enhance coastal protection through, *inter alia*, intensified soil conservation, afforestation and reforestation activities;

(e) Promote agroforestry systems and the development of multi-purpose tree species which are resistant to pests, diseases and cyclones;

(f) Pursue integrated planning of both terrestrial and marine environments to prevent their degradation and to soundly utilize the full potential of the natural resource base, particularly for ecotourism.

38. **Objective 4.2. To enhance the environmental protection.** To this end, Governments, in partnership with actors of civil society, and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

(a) Strengthen the information basis for environmental monitoring and integrate environmental values and concerns into the development process;

(b) Prevent further degradation of critical marine habitats and resources through the establishment of marine parks and through the sound management of resources;

(c) Develop new or amend existing national legislation, as appropriate, to ensure that a comprehensive, updated and coordinated legal framework on natural resource management and environmental protection is in place;

(d) Enforce, ratify or conclude, as appropriate, international conventions, such as the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol; if required, adopt national legislation to implement those conventions and promote collaboration mechanisms for their implementation.

39. **Objective 4.3. To improve disaster preparedness.** To this end, Governments, in partnership with actors of civil society, and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

(a) Minimize the vulnerability to and impact of natural hazards, climate fluctuations, forest fires, pests and diseases through the formulation of disaster-preparedness and mitigation strategies;

(b) Promote measures to mitigate the impact of hurricanes and cyclones on agriculture and coastal fisheries; assess national meteorological and hydrological services with a view to improving their service capability of disaster prevention; support early warning systems at the national and regional levels;

(c) Undertake efforts to preserve mangrove areas which provide protection against tidal surges and storm damage;

(d) Develop and disseminate improved measures and techniques in the fisheries sector to reduce hurricane/cyclone impacts, such as destruction of landing sites, loss of boats, fishing gear and pots at sea through measures that might include construction of storm shelters, fishing jetties and mooring buoys and installation of storm warning systems.

V. Capacity-building and institution strengthening

Basis for action

40. The scarcity of skilled manpower and the weakness in institutional capacities are common constraints shared by small island developing States. Many administrations lack the full range of in-house expertise to respond to the changes required for effective implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action. Special efforts will be required to adjust to changes in the global trading environment and to promote the move towards a more diversified and intensified agriculture, while ensuring sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment. This calls for a pooling of the limited human resources through regional cooperation and institutions. National, regional and international institutions, including FAO, have an important role to play in this endeavour. Improved capacity to tap indigenous knowledge and increase access to imported technology will be beneficial to small island developing States.

41. The Uruguay Round Agreements present opportunities for countries to benefit from greater access to world markets by curbing past production and trade-distorting practices and by facilitating more competitive and fairer trade. Signatories to the Agreements also assume the obligation of complying with their provisions. In order to fulfil this obligation and take advantage of the new opportunities, it is essential that small island developing States develop their own capacity to examine, assess and evaluate their national circumstances in the context of the Agreements. Recognizing this, the World Food Summit Plan of Action called upon FAO and other international organizations to continue assisting

developing countries in preparing for future Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTNs) scheduled to begin in 1999, including in agriculture, fisheries and forestry, *inter alia*, through studies, analysis and training.

42. Agricultural diversification requires a proactive, project-oriented and multidisciplinary approach to the development of efficient production/marketing linkages for the targeted non-traditional agricultural crops. At the national level, the Ministry of Agriculture, in particular, has a critical role to play in creating the environment for and facilitating the production of the non-traditional crops.

43. Skills of all actors (e.g. farmers, fishers, forest users, exporters, administrators and extension personnel, both men and women) need to be continuously upgraded through specialized training and capacity-building in agronomic, financial management and marketing expertise. Particularly extension staff requires a reorientation to commercial farm management with attention to be paid both to productivity improvement and better business planning and to related training of farmers in improved organizational and managerial skills. Awareness, communication and training on environmental management are needed for policy makers, managers and civil society groups (e.g. fishers' associations, rural communities). Training and institution-building will often be more effective if undertaken on a regional and subregional basis.

44. Databases, essential for planning purposes, are generally weak in small island developing States. Although the methodology for collecting, processing and analysing data for food and agriculture is available in most small island developing States, they lack adequate statistical organization and personnel, and coordination between statistical offices and economic analysis, planning and decision-making agencies. Particular attention should therefore be paid to establishing an institutional interdisciplinary framework. Additional data, new methods of data collection and information analysis, and appropriate tools to integrate environmental, social and economic considerations in decision-making are required. In these fields, interregional cooperation among small island developing States could be promoted through regional groupings and mechanisms. At the national level, FAO is currently involved with other United Nations agencies and partners in developing guidelines for national Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems, as requested by the World Food Summit. Food Insecurity and Vulnerability Information and Mapping Systems include vulnerability indicators and mapping drawing on socio-economic, nutrition and environmental data.

Objectives and actions

45. **Objective 5.1. To develop and/or strengthen national capacities in the context of the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture**. To this end, Governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

(a) Strengthen, as appropriate, the administrative/legal capacity to meet the requirements of World Trade Organization (WTO) membership, including preparation of notifications, defending interests of national agriculture in the WTO, assessing the impact on agriculture of policy changes agreed upon at WTO, and developing systems of plant varietal protection;

(b) Build up national policy formulation capacity in agricultural, forestry, and fisheries sectors and adequate analytical capacity to assess the impact of policy changes being proposed at WTO;

(c) Strengthen the scientific, administrative and infrastructure capability to deal with food standards, plant and animal health inspection services and quality assurance requirements of exports and imports;

(d) Strengthen the capacity to prepare and negotiate in MTN rounds, including the preparation/revision of national schedules of commitments to the WTO, requiring additional skills and a forward-looking capacity in the concerned ministries.

46. **Objective 5.2. To strengthen the supporting services to agriculture.** To this end, Governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society and the international community, will, as appropriate:

(a) Strengthen agricultural research and extension, with a view to being able to better respond to new challenges facing the sector and to provide the focused crop-specific support required for agricultural intensification and diversification;

(b) Improve the availability and accessibility of credit, which is critical to promoting non-traditional commodities;

(c) Establish joint marketing services with strong private sector participation;

(d) Build up, as appropriate, national fisheries administrations and strengthen their fisheries conservation and management capacity;

(e) Strengthen national forest agencies and improve coordination among national forestry and related agencies

in their work and in relation to foreign funded assistance programmes;

(f) Ensure that women farmers' specific needs and requirements are adequately taken into account.

47. **Objective 5.3. To provide a coherent framework for sustainable natural resource management and environmental protection.** To this end, Governments, in partnership with all actors of civil society and with the support of international institutions, will, as appropriate:

(a) Provide, strengthen and ensure implementation of appropriate legislation on environmental protection and natural resource management, including land, water and forest resources, plant protection and animal health, climate change, desertification, biodiversity, wildlife and genetic resources, protected areas and critical habitats, integrated coastal area management and preservation of the marine environment, and the conservation and management of fisheries within areas under national jurisdiction and, where appropriate, on the high seas;

(b) Promote integrated approaches to natural resources management, in order to mitigate adverse intersectoral impacts; pursue work on the development of vulnerability indices and vulnerability mapping;

(c) Integrate national forest policies into a larger natural resources management framework at the national level;

(d) Discourage unsustainable agricultural practices, uncontrolled deforestation, destructive fishing practices and overfishing;

(e) Elaborate measures to mitigate biodiversity losses, making full use of local knowledge very often retained by women;

(f) Establish, as appropriate, relevant databases, information systems and support regional collaboration, including inter-island information and technology sharing.

VI. Implementing the Plan of Action

48. The implementation of the Plan of Action requires effective means to reflect the priority attached to sustainable food security and to the conservation and sustainable utilization and management of natural resources. To mobilize funding for national and regional development efforts, coordinated approaches should be followed, to the extent possible. Opportunities for introducing innovative financial mechanisms should be identified.

49. The resources required for investment will be generated mostly from domestic private and public sources. Governments should provide an economic and legal framework which provides efficient markets that encourage private sector mobilization of savings, investment and capital formation. Governments should devote an appropriate proportion of their expenditures to investments which enhance sustainable food security. Governments should also strengthen investments in areas of common interest, such as appropriate technology generation through collaborative research and transfer, as well as to share investment experience and best practices.

50. The international community has a key role to play in supporting the adoption of appropriate national policies and in providing technical and financial assistance. Such assistance should take account of the specific needs and priorities, at national, regional and subregional levels as outlined in the Plan of Action. International non-governmental organizations could make a useful contribution by collaborating with local non-governmental organizations working in small island developing States. In some small island developing States, foreign direct investment (FDI) and other private financial flows provide an important source of external resources. Official development assistance (ODA) is of critical importance for countries and sectors left aside by other external sources of finance.

51. International financial institutions, regional development banks and other regional and subregional organizations should be encouraged to increase their technical and, as appropriate, financial assistance including, when suitable, either as a grant or at highly concessional terms to small island developing States at the community, national and subregional levels, including through mechanisms that can provide small-scale grants and microenterprise loans. Since global environmental problems, particularly with regard to climate change, biological diversity and international waters, are of great significance and concern to small island developing States, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which provides concessional funding in these areas, should pay due attention to the special needs and requirements of those countries.

52. In recognition of the particular constraints that the small island developing States are facing and with a view to changes in the global trade environment, the major thrust of the actions proposed is on: (a) support of agricultural intensification and diversification; (b) meeting specific fisheries needs; (c) sustainable use of natural resources, environmental protection and disaster preparedness; and (d) capacity-building and institution strengthening.

53. Adjusting to changes in the global trading system would be supported through assistance in assessing the implications of the Uruguay Round on domestic agriculture, formulating policy responses to the emerging challenges, in-depth studies on the national comparative advantage in the production and export of agricultural products. Support would be provided to the establishment of a market and trade information system.

54. Projects in support of agricultural intensification and diversification would promote small-scale irrigation where feasible, promote improved cultivation practices and small animal production. The roles and specific constraints of women-headed farm households would be addressed. The strengthening of supporting services would emphasize well-focused adoptive research and extension, ensuring the availability of quality seed and planting material and improving pest and disease control systems. Under a policy framework providing incentives for the private sector to take initiative, particular emphasis would be on improving the domestic marketing infrastructure, including the strengthening of quarantine, quality control and inspection systems.

55. Meeting fisheries needs would largely be through projects in support of community-based fishery management, improving shore facilities for industrial fisheries, exploiting the potential for aquaculture development, improving inland fisheries and overcome constraints in fish marketing and processing. Regional and subregional collaboration and the setting up of joint-venture fishing enterprises would be supported.

56. Projects in support of sustainable use of natural resources and environmental protection would address integrated land use planning, soil conservation and watershed management. A major thrust would be on rehabilitation and conservation of forestlands. Projects would also address the degradation of critical marine habitats and strengthen the databases for environmental monitoring. Improving disaster preparedness would be mainly through assistance in designing and promoting mitigating measures and support to early warning systems at the national and regional levels.

57. Apart from strengthening the national capacities in the context of Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture, through technical assistance and training, including that offered by FAO, WTO, the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), capacity-building projects would promote the move towards a more intensified, diversified and sustainable agriculture. Support would be provided to national fisheries administrations to improve their fisheries conservation and management capacity and to forest administrations, with a view to improving forest management and integrating national forest policies into a larger natural resources management framework at national level. Support would also be provided to the development of vulnerability indices and vulnerability mapping and to other relevant databases to be taken into account in the build-up of national capabilities.

58. Since implementation of the present Plan of Action will be within the framework of World Food Summit follow-up, Governments, in partnership with all sectors of civil society and in coordination with relevant international institutions and in conformity with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/36 on the follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits, will undertake special efforts to strengthen national monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and include reporting on measures taken and on progress achieved as part of their obligations under the follow-up to the World Food Summit. The implementation of the Plan of Action will also contribute to the fulfilment of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of small island developing States.

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Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Meeting of representatives of donors and small island developing States, 24–26 February 1999**

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. Introduction

1. In response to General Assembly resolutions 51/183, 52/202 and 53/189, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), organized a meeting of representatives of donors and small island developing States from 24 to 26 February 1999 on the mobilization of resources to assist small island developing States in effectively implementing the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

2. The meeting, which was co-chaired by Roger Ehrhardt, Director-General of the United Nations and Commonwealth Division, Multilateral Programme, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and Tuiloma Neroni Slade, Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations and Chairman of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), was held at United Nations Headquarters and was very well attended throughout the three-day session. The participants included the representatives of prospective bilateral and multilateral donors, small island developing States, regional intergovernmental organizations of small island developing States, and a number of non-United Nations intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.[1]

3. The objective of the meeting was to consider ways and means of assisting small island developing States in mobilizing resources to implement a range of sustainable development projects, proposals on which small island developing States had previously submitted to bilateral and multilateral donors through the Department, as well as to build momentum at the international level for the continued implementation of the Programme of Action, both as a prelude to the special session of the General Assembly and for future years.

4. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ehrhardt welcomed the meeting as a valuable opportunity for promoting an open and frank exchange of views between small island developing States and the donor community on the plans and priorities of these States. He also indicated that another contribution of this meeting could take place during informal consultations between donors and small island developing States on specific projects and concrete sustainable development issues facing small island developing States and as an occasion for renewing partnership between donors and small island developing States. The Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs drew attention to the special characteristics of small island developing States, their constraints and handicaps, which necessitate greater efforts on their part to operationalize the Programme of Action effectively and to pursue its goals consistently. The Associate Administrator of UNDP stressed the linkages between human development and the need for environmental protection, and pledged continued UNDP support in a renewed partnership with other donors and small island developing States for the implementation of the Programme of Action. The Chairman of AOSIS stressed the sense of ownership felt by small island developing States towards the Programme of Action, and highlighted the efforts of small island developing States to translate it into practice. He mentioned that while small island developing States have embraced the Programme of Action as the main framework for their sustainable development, the attainment of its goals was predicated on a strengthened partnership, built on mutual trust, between small island developing States and donors (for the Co-Chairmen's highlights of the meeting, see annex I).

II. Major issues addressed by small island developing States

5. Small island developing States and regional organizations on behalf of small island developing States, had submitted 311 projects for review and for commitment of resources for the subsequent implementation of the projects, at the donors/small island developing States meeting. The project portfolio included national and regional projects, roughly in the ratio of three to one. Some 30 per cent of the projects were in the areas of human resources development and national institutions and administrative capacity, and some 28 per cent in waste management, coastal and marine resources and biodiversity resources. Annex IV provides a distribution of the projects by programme area, groups of small island developing States, and national and regional categories.

6. In their presentations, the representatives of small island developing States stressed their ecological fragility and the vulnerability of their small economies. They highlighted the disadvantages that derive from their location and physical characteristics — dispersion of islands over large areas in the case of archipelagic small island developing States; recurrent damages inflicted on small island developing States located in the cyclonic belt by natural disasters, such as hurricanes; overuse, rapid depletion and degradation of natural resources on account of their paucity relative to the demand for them. They also highlighted the disadvantages and constraints posed by the smallness of their economies and distance from their major trading partners — small size of labour force, which precludes the development of a critical mass of technical skills across the broad spectrum of sustainable development activities, which in turn impedes economic diversification and the flexibility needed to adapt to changing international markets; remoteness from their major trading partners, which gives rise to high international transportation costs and infrequency of marine and air transport services on account of their relatively low trade volumes; high unit costs of social and physical infrastructure on account of low demand and sub-optimal use, particularly in the very small and archipelagic States; inadequate investment resources for building critical infrastructure characterized by indivisibilities and requiring large investments, on account of low levels of absolute national savings even where per capita incomes are relatively high; vulnerability of their economies to shocks from the international economy on account of their high degree of openness and narrow specialization for the export market; near total reliance, in most cases, of both consumer and investment goods, including technology and energy, which translates into high levels of domestic prices.

7. Against the backdrop of the challenges facing small island developing States, their representatives elaborated on the considerable effort that small island developing States have made in the pursuit of sustainable development at the national and regional levels, complemented by international support. In that context, they outlined their respective measures to formulate national development strategies, action plans and policies, and to strengthen regulatory frameworks; establish or strengthen national institutions to coordinate implementation of the Programme of Action at the national level; and establish or strengthen regional institutions for effective regional coordination. Annex II provides a succinct account of the major actions taken by some of the small island developing States that participated in the meeting. The representatives of small island developing States pointed out that notwithstanding their efforts at the national and regional levels, progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action has been hampered by a number of factors, most importantly, lack of financial support from the international community, inadequate human resources with appropriate training, inadequate institutional capacity, inadequate capacity for the enforcement of environmental legislation and regulations, and inadequate investment resources.

8. They drew attention to some emerging constraints resulting from the globalization of production, distribution and finance, which is based on the ability — in terms of skilled human resources, technology and natural resource endowments — to take advantage of economies of scale and achieve a reduction of costs. Since small island developing States lack the necessary underpinnings they are unable to adapt to the emerging structures. They also pointed out the short-term constraints emerging from trade liberalization, which is eroding the trade preferences that they have benefited from faster than they can diversify and restructure their export sectors. They recognized the importance of the private sector in promoting sustainable development through internalization of environmental costs. They pointed out, however, that most of the projects that they had submitted fell in the category known as "public goods", whose benefits accrue to the public at large and from which profits are not easy to capture, which makes them ineligible for private investment.

9. They also drew attention to the inability of individual small island developing States to effectively negotiate international trade and other agreements, as well as their inability to meet the obligations arising from the bewildering array of trade agreements and international conventions without the support of the international community. They recognized the need to cooperate at the regional level, and stressed the need for permanent and effective regional coordination mechanisms where they do not exist. A permanent regional coordination mechanism in each region could provide much needed support for identifying realistic areas of cooperation, formulating regional cooperation plans, coordinating among small island developing States to implement plans, and providing technical support to small island developing States in negotiating international treaties and participating effectively in international negotiations. Small island developing States that had submitted projects discussed their relevance for promoting sustainable development and the external resources needed for implementing the projects. Generally, small island developing States recognized the extremely vital and critical role of donor support in attaining the goals of the Programme of Action, and called on the international community not to judge their eligibility for concessional assistance solely by the indicator of per capita income, which ignores their fragility, vulnerability and inability to generate adequate national savings relative to the enormity of investment required for sustainable development.

III. Donors' responses

10. Donors welcomed the opportunity provided by the forward-looking meeting to discuss concrete sustainable development issues with small island developing States, and commended the latter's commitment to the principles established at Rio de Janeiro and Barbados. There was broad recognition of the unique characteristics of small island developing States, including their ecological and economic vulnerability, and of the importance of developing satisfactory tools to assess relative vulnerability. The view was expressed that small island developing States find themselves in the front line facing the challenges created by climate change, globalization, trade liberalization, and rapid changes in information and communications technology.

11. Several bilateral and multilateral donors elaborated on the salient features of their current programmes of assistance to small island developing States, including in several cases their respective areas of focus and their respective aid modalities. Annex III contains a tabular account of some of the specifics of selected donors' aid programmes as outlined in the meeting. By and large, they indicated their willingness to consider funding the projects that fit in with their respective sustainable development priorities through their established mechanisms and modalities of aid allocation (see annex III). In this regard, the view was

expressed that donors need to take into account the priorities of small island developing States also.

12. Donors encouraged small island developing States to identify urgent and high priority issues, and on that basis to prioritize projects. On the question of prioritization it was pointed out that it is also important to ensure that major intra- and intersectoral linkages are taken into account since progress in some areas is dependent on action taken in other areas. Along the same line, it was proposed that small island developing States need to adopt a programme approach instead of a project-by-project approach in sustainable development planning, and to mainstream projects and programmes into comprehensive integrated national sustainable development plans that incorporate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

13. Generally, donors attached great importance to effective cooperation and coordination at all levels. They invited small island developing States to strengthen public/private partnerships internally, and to enhance regional cooperation and coordination so as to benefit from synergy generated by experience and cost-sharing and by the exploitation of complementarities among human resources as well as material endowments of small island developing States. They also stressed the need for greater coordination among donors so as to ensure appropriate burden-sharing and avoid duplication of efforts and waste of resources so that scarce resources may be utilized with maximum effectiveness and efficiency. They emphasized the need to take advantage of all existing complementarities. In this context, they proposed an appropriate division of responsibilities between multilateral and bilateral donors, and called for a proper balance between national and regional programmes and projects.

14. Donors called on small island developing States to continue to formulate sustainable development strategies and policies, and to give greater importance to the private sector by putting in place appropriate policies that will encourage domestic private investment and attract foreign direct investment. Such investments are necessary to enhance small island developing States' export capacity, raise export earnings and reduce reliance on external assistance. In this context, it was observed that there is a positive correlation between the level of external assistance and the level of foreign direct investment in small island developing States; high levels of external assistance serve to reduce the perceived risks of investing in small island developing States and attract high levels of foreign direct investment. It was stated that it was not an either/or question, but that both external assistance and foreign direct investment are necessary. Donors called for the strengthening of small island developing States' statistical capabilities so that they may develop suitable indicators of progress in sustainable development, in particular indicators for monitoring the performance of projects and programmes to ensure that external funding is effectively utilized and set targets are attained. Performance indicators would also help donors to give an account to their taxpayers of results achieved with external assistance resources.

IV. Concluding remarks

15. The meeting provided prospective donors and other stakeholders with an opportunity to learn about the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, the strategies that they have formulated to implement the Programme of Action and the constraints that they have encountered in the process of implementation. It also provided an opportunity for small island developing States to learn about the particular orientations of donors' aid programmes and their respective aid modalities. The discussions were

thoughtful and frank, and took place in a very amicable and collaborative spirit. There was consensus on a number of issues, such as the fragility and vulnerability of small island developing States, the handicaps of small economies, the need for comprehensive approaches to sustainable development planning, the need to build partnership at all levels, the need to strengthen regional cooperation among small island developing States, and the need for donor coordination, among others.

16. Although no specific pledges were made, the meeting served to strengthen the partnership between donors and small island developing States, and began a mutually satisfactory collaborative approach to cooperation between them that seems to be quite promising. A number of donors also indicated a willingness to provide support to small island developing States in their efforts to implement the Programme of Action generally, in particular to the projects that had been submitted. They indicated that the next step could be a thorough review of the projects and consultations with small island developing States Governments at the bilateral level through their established mechanisms.

17. It was agreed that the informal consultations between the focal points of small island developing States and prospective donors represented in New York that had been initiated prior to the meeting should continue with a view to discussing the issues raised during the meeting. The working group could be open-ended, and could discuss both organizational matters and thematic issues in the context of the preparation of the special session of the General Assembly.

18. The outcomes of the meeting will serve as a valuable input to the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the special session of the General Assembly to be held in September 1999.

Notes

[1] A list of participants is available in the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; it has also been posted on the Internet on the Department's Web page at www.un.org/esa/sustdev/sids.htm.

Annex I

Co-Chairmen's highlights of the meeting

Objectives of the meeting:

- To focus attention on a range of national and regional project portfolios that are consistent with the policy priorities of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and that were submitted to donors for consideration.
- To provide donors and other stakeholders with an important opportunity to learn about the strategies, constraints, and priorities of small island developing States in implementing the Programme of Action.
- To engage in a frank and open discussion on resource mobilization for small island developing States activities under the Programme of Action.
- To strengthen the partnership between prospective donors and small island States.
- To build momentum behind the Programme of Action, both as a prelude to the special session taking place in fall 1999, and for future years.

The Co-Chairs felt that the meeting between small island developing States and prospective donors, which also included the active participation of multilateral and non-governmental organizations, went a long way towards recapturing the energy, goodwill and forward-looking approach of the 1994 Global Conference.

The following are particularly worth highlighting:

- The truly impressive quality of project proposals, numbering over 300, and presentations made by both small island developing States and the three regional organizations. These proved invaluable in casting light on the constraints, strategies and priorities of small island developing States.
- The thoughtful and positive interventions that were made by donors, multilateral organizations and NGOs which contributed to an open and frank exchange.
- The strong sense of commitment to and ownership by small island States of the Programme of Action. They clearly see the Programme of Action as the framework for their sustainable development efforts.
- The range of activities that have already been undertaken under the Programme of Action by small island developing States, donors, multilateral organizations and NGOs.
- The willingness of some of the world's major financial institutions to be flexible when exploring means to assist small island States.
- The ongoing support that is being provided to small island developing States by donors and global funding sources. small island developing States were particularly heartened by the possibilities of new support that were expressed during the meeting.
- The important preparatory work that was done by the informal working group in New York, which will play a significant role in preparing for the special session.

Lessons learned at the meeting:

- That the most important priority areas for small island developing States are: financing, human resource development, capacity-building, institutional strengthening and technology transfer.
- That there are specific disadvantages and vulnerabilities that derive from small size, most specifically:
  - (a) A narrow range of resources;
  - (b) An excessive dependence on international trade and hence vulnerability to global developments;
  - (c) Proneness to natural and environmental disasters;
  - (d) Overuse of natural resources and premature depletion;
  - (e) Costly public administration and infrastructure, including transportation and communications;
  - (f) Limited human resources compounded by high levels of migration, particularly of skilled persons, and by weak institutional capacities.
- That for small island developing States, there will be "no place to go when the tide comes in". Small island developing States are a laboratory for the direct impacts of the greenhouse effect and other hazards of climate change. In effect, environmental issues are one of the most fundamental concerns of small island developing States, as was clearly demonstrated by the number of projects submitted and the comments made at the meeting.
- That overseas development assistance to small island developing States has substantially declined and this has had a discernible impact on their countries. Small island States underlined that resource mobilization is clearly one of their main challenges. While their concern with the resource constraints facing small island States is by no means new, they believe that it must be addressed with a new resolve if the special session is to provide the needed impetus to implement the Programme of Action.
- That said, small island developing States recognize that they must step up their efforts to foster an enabling environment for external assistance. They must adopt, as appropriate, policy reforms to cope with the turbulence of global change, since good policies beget good projects and good projects foster effective implementation. Small island developing States must also intensify their search for new modalities for resource mobilization, particularly for regional initiatives.
- The critical need for improved and effective coordination — not only by small island developing States, donors, and multilateral organizations, but also within the United Nations system as a whole — was noted during the meeting. There is much room for improvement in this area, especially since better coordination would reduce costs and improve effectiveness and efficiency.
- More generally, small island developing States believe that the potential for greater resource mobilization can be enhanced by more effective coordination on a number of fronts: at the national and regional levels, including a strengthened regional mechanism; among donors, through more creative interaction with the private sector and NGOs; and through the strengthening of focal points within the United Nations system, including the small island developing States Unit.

- In the area of coordination, the valuable and critical role that can be played by Small Island Developing States Network, a UNDP-funded global Internet network which shares information and enables rapid coordination of action on pressing island issues, was highlighted. The comprehensive development framework by the World Bank also offers an important opportunity to enhance coordination at the country level and partnership with local governments.
- The need for a wide participatory approach was mentioned by donors. Small island States are to be commended for having consulted a wide range of stakeholders when determining specific needs and priorities and ensuring that these were reflected in project proposals.
- Although small island developing States have been encouraged by donors to prioritize, it became evident at the meeting that this is not a simple and clear-cut process. Fundamental issues such as education and health must not be lost in the formula.
- Several donors touched on the need for an output — a results-oriented approach to development projects and the critical value of developing indicators to measure progress. They also highlighted the need for a national and regional balance in development efforts, and underlined the role that the private sector can play in the area of resource mobilization.
- Strengthening the capacity of small island developing States and enhancing their competitiveness to facilitate and enable their effective participation in the global economy was also raised by several interlocutors.
- Finally, island States underlined that donor funding to small island developing States is smart money given their strong commitment to and engagement in the Programme of Action. The partnership between small island developing States and donors is critical if the Programme is to achieve its objectives.

Follow-up:

The issue of resource mobilization is obviously an ongoing process, leading up to the special session, and beyond. More specifically, the concrete suggestions set out below were made at the meeting.

- That the informal working group continue to meet on a regular basis in preparation for the special session in September. In this way, missions in New York can play a vital facilitating role.
- That individual small island developing States follow up in their capitals with donor missions to move forward on projects.
- That small island developing States Governments ensure that the proposed projects are incorporated within their national plans so that donors can be assured of the priority attached to them.
- That donor, multilateral and NGO representatives return to their headquarters and inform their offices in small island developing States of the conclusion of this meeting and alert them to expected follow-up.
- That regional small island developing States organizations explore means for strengthening regional arrangements, and ways of dealing with some of the difficulties identified, including coordination and the operation of focal points.

- That a written summary of the meeting be circulated to all participants, and that an oral summary be made at the inter-sessional meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development on small island developing States.

In closing:

The meeting was about the strengthening and enrichment of the partnership between small island developing States and the international community. Everyone present agreed that in this context, it was extremely worthwhile and successful.

Annex II

Action taken at the national level to promote sustainable development[a]

Countries	*National strategies and policies to implement Programme of Action*	*Legislative framework plans*	*Initiatives taken and achievements*	*Focus areas*
Bahrain	Environmental Affairs has adopted three environmental policies, namely, the precautionary principle, the polluter pays principle and the cooperation principle. The three principles guide the interpretation of legislation in major fields of concern and administration of the national community	In 1996, Legislative Decree No. 21 called for a reorganization of environmental administration and the establishment of Environmental Affairs	Environmental protection is now the responsibility of Environmental Affairs, which is part of the Ministry of Housing, Municipalities and Environment	Terrestrial and marine resources; management of water resources; climate change issues and obligations; waste management; biodiversity protection; pollution control
Barbados	The national commission on sustainable development has been working to develop a national sustainable policy and plan	Legislative instruments have been passed specifically to ensure coastal protection and conservation, and all-encompassing environmental management legislation has been proposed	Establishment of a separate Ministry of Environment, Energy and Natural Resources; the South Coast Sewerage Project and a solid waste management project will soon be completed; a coastal zone management unit has been created	Ensuring the input and involvement of the private sector and civil society; coastal zones and fragile marine ecosystems
Cuba	In 1997, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment headed an intense process of analysis and intersectoral coordination that resulted in a national environmental strategy	In 1997, the Cuban Parliament approved a new Law of the Environment, establishing the basis for a coherent and integrated legal framework and facilitating the inclusion of the environmental dimension in development plans at the national and local levels	National programme for integrated coastal management; a national council for river basins has been created; a country study of the biological diversity of Cuba has been completed	Soil degradation; deterioration of sanitation and environmental conditions in human settlements; pollution of marine waters and interior waters; deforestation; loss of biological diversity
Cyprus	The major sustainable development goals of Cyprus have been included in the strategic development plan for the period 1994–1998; this will be followed by the plan for the period 1999–2003, currently under preparation	Drafted bill for the protection of the environment, which contains full provisions for the application of environmental impact assessment measures	A study was commissioned and financed under the SINERGY programme of the EU, entitled "Preparation of an action plan for improving the efficiency of the energy sector"	Fiscal instruments, information, research and participation; waste management, radiation, atmosphere, noise, chemicals, industrial accidents, biotechnology, and the protection of nature and wildlife

Countries	*National strategies and policies to implement Programme of Action*	*Legislative framework plans*	*Initiatives taken and achievements*	*Focus areas*
Fiji	Parliament has approved a new strategic plan for Fiji for 1999–2001	A sustainable development bill will soon be presented to Parliament; it will ensure the sustainable use of resources	Establishment of a national council for sustainable development; environmental management units within government ministries, departments and agencies; an environmental trust fund, a tribunal; the strengthening of the focal environmental agency in government and the establishment of an ozone depleting substance and climate change unit, energy conservation unit and natural resource management unit	Development plan highlights the strategies to achieve sustainable economic and social progress at the end of the 20th century, and points to the positive indicators for sustainable economic recovery; sectoral policies natural resource utilization, development of human resources, provision of infrastructure and other essential utilities, provision of core social services — education health and housing
Grenada	Efforts have been made to implement all relevant international instruments	..	In addition to formal school education, Grenada provided evening classes for adults in continuing education; Grenada has made efforts to encourage the participation of all groups of society, including women	Emphasis on education
Guyana	Has developed a national sustainable development strategy based on a full commitment to the principles of sustainable development as embodied in Agenda 21 and the Programme of Action; has revised its national policy in forestry, energy, biodiversity, protected areas, science and technology, and land	Has taken action in institutional strengthening, including forestry management	Has set up a committee on natural resources and environment, chaired by the Prime Minister, a natural resources and environment advisory committee, headed by the President's scientific adviser, has also been established	
Jamaica	National environmental Action Plan and numerous other policy documents, such as the 1997 national land policy, the 1997 national industrial policy, the 1997 policy of Jamaica's system of protected areas	1991: passed the Natural Resources Conservation Act; 1998: drafted the national irrigation master plan, watershed management plan, national environmental education action plan for sustainable development (1998–2010)	Creation of the Natural Resources Conservation Authority in 1991, additional initiatives include establishment of the Sustainable Development Council of Jamaica in 1996, and of the Jamaica Sustainable Network Programme in 1997	Water resource management, tourism, taxes, disposal of non-biodegradable materials, economic instruments in environmental management, sustainable indicators

Countries	*National strategies and policies to implement Programme of Action*	*Legislative framework plans*	*Initiatives taken and achievements*	*Focus areas*
Kiribati	National strategies		A national committee was established prior to UNCED; this committee has been revived as the Kiribati National Sustainable Development Committee	
Maldives	In 1990, the first national environment action plan was formulated; in 1997, the first plan was reviewed and a second plan formulated	Formulation and enactment of the Environmental Protection Act; ratification and implementation of various international conventions and agreements	Introduction of environmental impact assessment procedures; establishment of an environment research centre; designation of protected areas and species; restructuring of the national commission for the protection of the environment	Climate change and sea level rise; coastal zone management; biological diversity conservation; integrated reef resource management; integrated water resource management; management of solid waste and sewage; pollution control and hazardous wastes; sustainable tourism development; land resource management; sustainable agriculture; human settlements and urbanization
Mauritius			Mauritius is engaged both at a national and regional level to address the issues of the Programme of Action. Mauritius is fully involved in regional action under the Indian Ocean Commission	Coastal and marine resource management; freshwater resources management
Micronesia	Implementation and monitoring mechanisms under the oversight of the Sustainable Development Council and with support from the Sustainable Development Unit within the Department of Economic Affairs		Reorganization of the structure and operations of the Government to increase efficiency and improve financial sustainability	
Seychelles	The environmental management plan was launched in 1990; Seychelles is now in the process of assessing the implementation of the plan; the aim is to articulate a new plan for the period 2000–2010		In the process of finalizing the 1999–2007 "Seychelles tourism master plan", and has completed the national biodiversity action plan, in fulfilment of the obligations of the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Seychelles National Biodiversity Centre has been launched	Focus on strengthening the legal and institutional arrangements for environmental protection and natural resources management

Countries	*National strategies and policies to implement Programme of Action*	*Legislative framework plans*	*Initiatives taken and achievements*	*Focus areas*
Solomon Islands	National environment management strategy, the Government has incorporated the environmental issues and strategies into its three-year medium-term development strategy	Two items of legislation — the Wildlife Protection Act of 1998 and the Environment Protection Act of 1998 — have been passed in Parliament	Formulation of a national biodiversity strategy action plan is currently being pursued, and will soon be recommended as part of the national report of the Convention on Biological Diversity	..
Suriname	Brought the overall environmental management directly under the responsibility of the President of Suriname	Through a Presidential decree, the National Council for the Environment was established as a policy and advisory body	Decision taken by the Government to preserve for conservation purposes 1.6 million hectares of tropical rainforest	Institutional mechanisms, design and implementation of environmental policies
Saint Lucia	There is no deliberate national policy to implement the Programme of Action. Rather, the Government pursues its development strategy by addressing a wide range of issues, several of which fall within the Programme of Action	Formulation of the national environmental action plan; development of a proposed watershed and environment management plan	Establishment of a sustainable development unit in the Ministry of Finance and Planning; establishment of a national solid waste management authority	Budgetary reform, waste management, coastal zones, forestry, parks and protected areas and poverty alleviation
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	In both the medium-term economic strategy 1998–2000 and the 1999 budget address, the Government has placed strong emphasis on its goal of balanced growth and sustainable development	..	..	The major goal of the Government is to address the problems of unemployment and poverty; for 1999, the main pillars of the Government's programme are: economic diversification, efficiency and effectiveness of the public service, fiscal and regulatory framework, public sector finances, human resources and environmental management
Trinidad and Tobago	Has set out its vision, policies and strategies for sustainable development in a seven-year national strategic development framework for the period 1999–2005	..	..	Economic growth, social equity and progress and the protection of the environment; emphasis on promoting agriculture, light manufacturing, tourism and business service; in the short term: poverty eradication, employment and crime reduction

Note: Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not reported separately.

[a] This is a compilation from the summary presentations made in the meeting; it is not a comprehensive account of action taken by small island developing States.

Annex III

Some specifics of donors' programmes in small island developing States reported in the meeting[a]

Donors	*Aid activities levels of assistance*	*Current programmatic priorities*	*Beneficiary country or region*	*Modalities and mechanisms of aid allocation*	*Willingness to review projects for possible funding*
AfDB	Over the period 1967–1998, the Bank Group committed about US$ 710 million in the six African small island developing States, 84% of which was concessional; this amount represents about 2% of the Bank Group's total commitments in all its borrowing regional member countries	Committed to assisting the African small island developing States in implementing priority projects and programmes to promote their sustainable development; the Bank Group's interventions in small island developing States cover such areas as agriculture, fisheries, transportation, human resources, freshwater supply, waste management, capacity-building and structural adjustment programmes to improve environment policy in the African small island developing States	...	The level of resources to be made available to each country for this purpose during the period 1999–2001 will depend on the outcome of the country performance assessment exercise and country strategy papers currently under way; resource allocation by the Bank Group is now performance based, and the African small island developing States would therefore be able to attract additional resources from the Bank Group and similar multilateral financial institutions by improving their performance defined in terms of policy portfolio performance	Yes
Australia	...	...	...	Interested in integrating small island developing States projects into existing funding processes, putting them through the existing channels	Yes
Canada	Provided support to OECS, CARICOM and the University of West Indies, and its support to regional organizations has been complementary to assistance by multilaterals	Support at the regional level focuses on oceans and fisheries resource management	Recently developed new relationships with Haiti and the Dominican Republic; at the country level, has a strong, multi-year support programme in Jamaica; has provided support for Guyana's tropical forest project, among other country projects	Favours project funding through existing mechanisms	Yes

Donors	*Aid activities levels of assistance*	*Current programmatic priorities*	*Beneficiary country or region*	*Modalities and mechanisms of aid allocation*	*Willingness to review projects for possible funding*
CDB	Over the period 1994–1998, CDB committed US$ 487 million to its small island developing States borrowing member countries, 47% of which was concessional; approximately US$ 259 million of the total resources over the period was committed for financing projects in the 15 priority areas of the Programme of Action	Committed to assisting and promoting the sustainable development of its borrowing member countries, 15 of which are small island developing States. CDB's normal lending policies allows coverage of all the priority areas of the Programme of Action; however, the Bank has been placing increasing emphasis on disaster management, waste management, tourism, human resources development and capacity-building in addition to fostering regional integration	Fifteen of CDB's 17 borrowing member countries are small island developing States; all are English-speaking small island developing States located within the Caribbean basin	The level of resources made available to each country is based on a country assistance strategy; these strategies are based on the priorities defined under the public sector investment programme and medium-term strategy of the country, which are frequently prepared with the assistance of CDB; the country's macroeconomic performance, portfolio performance and CDB's own exposure is also taken into consideration	Yes
Denmark	..	..	..	Can make available new financial resources for environment and sustainable use of resources; the choice of project will be based on priorities	..
EU/EDF	For the period 1996/2000, the European Development Fund package foreseen for the national and regional programmes for small island developing States is 1,024 million euros, with the Caribbean receiving 543 million, the Indian Ocean 286 million and the Pacific 149 million	The EU budget is oriented towards promoting actions in the fields of environment, food security, rehabilitation, co-financing with NGOs, humanitarian action, disaster prevention and preparedness and post-disaster support	Through EDF, EU has provided support to the Caribbean small island developing States and to CARICOM, whose secretariat has been strengthened for administering aid in environment, human resources and disaster preparedness	Additional assistance: European Development Fund, through such instruments as STABEX (e.g., banana-producing Windward Islands), SYSMIN (e.g., Jamaica), the Structural Adjustment Facility (e.g., Haiti)	..

Donors	*Aid activities levels of assistance*	*Current programmatic priorities*	*Beneficiary country or region*	*Modalities and mechanisms of aid allocation*	*Willingness to review projects for possible funding*
Finland	..	Made a decision to enter into negotiations to establish cooperation and partnership with small island developing States and the relevant regional bodies in the field of meteorology and hydrology through the World Meterological Organization and in cooperation with their national meterological institutes	The poorest countries are the central partners of development cooperation	During the last four years, development aid has been slowly increasing; about 40% of foreign aid is channelled through multilateral organizations, and about 60% through bilateral arrangements	..
France	Allocated more than US$ 110 million in bilateral aid to small island developing States alone in 1996	Early warning assistance in case of disasters, technical assistance in education, training, health	Bilateral aid has been concentrated on a "priority solidarity zone", which is defined and periodically updated by an inter-ministerial committee under the authority of the Prime Minister; the list comprises the following small island developing States: Vanuatu, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Haiti, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Cape Verde, Comoros, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles	Started to reorganize its assistance mechanisms; small island developing States not belonging to the priority solidarity zone may receive some support through various other instruments, such as *Fonds français pour l'environment mondial, Fonds caraibes, Fonds Pacifique*	..
GEF	..	..	..	GEF invited small island developing States to enter into dialogue with GEF national focal points; regional bodies will work to establish co-financing which is required by GEF	Yes

Donors	*Aid activities levels of assistance*	*Current programmatic priorities*	*Beneficiary country or region*	*Modalities and mechanisms of aid allocation*	*Willingness to review projects for possible funding*
Germany	Between 1994 and 1997, made available to 33 small island developing States in all regions an amount of DM 233 million, i.e., some 130 million US dollars, through its bilateral financial and technical cooperation; these figures include funds disbursed, as well as funds committed for ongoing or envisaged projects, and also include financial support by the federal Government to German-based NGOs which are active in Asia and Pacific, Caribbean and African small island developing States	Focal areas for bilateral cooperation are water supply and sanitation, family planning and health, education and vocational training, regional planning, fisheries and forests	A number of small island developing States continue to be partners in bilateral development cooperation, including Cape Verde, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Papua New Guinea; in addition, supports the activities of a number of relevant regional organizations	Bilateral cooperation complements cooperation by the EC on behalf of EU member States	..
Japan	..	Supported small island developing States in disaster prevention, tourism, small and medium-sized enterprises, fishery and waste management; attaches great importance to projects in waste management, disaster prevention, national institutions and administrative capacity and human resource development	..	Small island developing States are encouraged to contact the appropriate Japanese authorities through Japanese embassies to explore funding of projects	Yes

Donors	*Aid activities levels of assistance*	*Current programmatic priorities*	*Beneficiary country or region*	*Modalities and mechanisms of aid allocation*	*Willingness to review projects for possible funding*
Habitat	..	Focuses on a few key issues: • Environmental impact of settlements, infrastructure and services on small island developing States fragile ecosystems • Vulnerability to natural disasters and improved settlements and infrastructure management for their reduction • Human resources development in the areas of integrated resource and settlements management	Pursued partnership with small island developing States through a series of projects implemented in the Caribbean, the Indian Ocean and the South Pacific over the last decade, mostly in collaboration with UNDP, CARICOM and OECS	..	..
ILO	..	The ILO's active partnership programme collaborates with social partners in many small island developing States so as to help their integration into the global economic system, on a fair and equitable basis; the international enterprise programme, for example, promotes the training of managers, entrepreneurs and skilled workers	..	..	..
Ireland	Trebled its ODA since UNCED; it is committed to multilateralism, and has steadily increased its contributions to United Nations activities; Ireland provides financial support to small island developing States through GEF	..	..	Ireland can provide support to some specific projects	Yes

Donors	*Aid activities levels of assistance*	*Current programmatic priorities*	*Beneficiary country or region*	*Modalities and mechanisms of aid allocation*	*Willingness to review projects for possible funding*
Italy	In the past two years, financed, through the United Nations Trust Fund for New and Renewable Resources of Energy, nine projects in seven small island developing States and 20 scholarships to experts from 11 small island developing States, and has provided assistance to four small island developing States struck by hurricanes	..	Currently financing cooperation projects in nine small island developing States	Italy's development cooperation is moving in a direction parallel to that of "economic partnership", especially in the field of ecotourism	..
Netherlands	ODA: 0.8% of GDP	..	..	ODA is limited to countries with structural adjustment programmes; criteria used for aid allocation: poverty level, quality of economic policy, good governance	..
New Zealand	ODA to small island developing States amounts to $NZ 100 million, and has steadily risen in NZ dollar terms and as a percentage of central government expenditure, and now stands above the OECD average ODA/GNP ratio	Assessment of capacity-building, vulnerability; supports strategies for environment, biodiversity, resource and waste management, climate change and phase-out of ozone depleting substances; in collaboration with FAO and WTO: enhancement of the capacity of Pacific islands to deal with the complexities of trade rules	Currently well over 55% of bilateral ODA is directed to 18 Pacific small island developing States and 25% of multilateral ODA specifically supports Pacific regional institutions; small island developing States, both in the Pacific and further afield in the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean, also benefit from a number of NZ global programmes, particularly in capacity-building	..	..
Norway	ODA: $1.2 billion per year, 0.9% of GDP; plans to increase ODA levels to 1% of GDP	..	..	Assistance to small island developing States given through multilateral channels	..
Spain	Committed substantial funds to projects in small island developing States	..	..	..	Yes

Donors	*Aid activities levels of assistance*	*Current programmatic priorities*	*Beneficiary country or region*	*Modalities and mechanisms of aid allocation*	*Willingness to review projects for possible funding*
Sweden	As a member of EU, contributed multilateral assistance to small island developing States	..	Involved with projects in five small island developing States	Allocation of aid according to some criteria	..
United Kingdom	..	Programme for next year will focus on basic education and good governance	Looked at opportunities to work with regional institutions, such as OECS and the Caribbean Development Bank	Aid delivered within the framework of country strategy papers worked out through bilateral consultations	Yes
UNEP	..	The special problems and requirements of small island developing States are recognized by GEF in three of its four concentration areas: protection of biological diversity, mitigation of climate change impacts and protection of international waters; UNEP/GEF-funded activities related to small island developing States include numerous projects in the area of biodiversity	..	UNEP's Environment Fund provides relatively small amounts for small island developing States-related activities, and, consequently, UNEP relies heavily on external sources of funding; the Global Environment Facility (GEF), of which UNEP is one of the three implementing agencies, remains one of the major potential sources of such funds; another source of funds for the implementation of the environmental aspects of the Programme of Action is the trust funds operated under the UNEP regional seas programme	..
UNESCO	..	..	Contributed to two major processes of consultation in 1997 and in 1998 for the Pacific and Caribbean regions, respectively; these endeavours are known as "Focus on the Pacific" and "Focus on the Caribbean"	Funding possibilities: UNESCO regular programme and extrabudgetary sources	..

Donors	*Aid activities levels of assistance*	*Current programmatic priorities*	*Beneficiary country or region*	*Modalities and mechanisms of aid allocation*	*Willingness to review projects for possible funding*
UNDP	Supported several activities designed to strengthen the capacities of small island developing States in crucial areas identified by the Programme of Action; examples include the preparation of a Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme, the assessment of unmet technical cooperation needs and priorities in the various small island developing States regions and the launching of a pilot Small Island Developing States Information Network	Crucial areas are identified by the Programme of Action	Several projects in Pacific, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean, Atlantic and Caribbean small island developing States		Yes
United States of America	..	Expressed its particular interest in small island developing States work in implementing the international coral reef initiative, and in addressing coastal and marine resources, as well as land-based activities that affect the marine environment	..	..	..
World Bank	..	Interested in promoting sustainable tourism and industry in the broadest aspects	..	Will support projects as long as they are consistent with country strategy	Yes
WHO	..	Can provide training and technical cooperation for environmental impact assessment and vulnerability analysis for natural disaster preparedness	..	..	..

Note: Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not reported separately.

[a] This is a compilation from summary presentations in the meeting; it is not a comprehensive account of donor programmes.

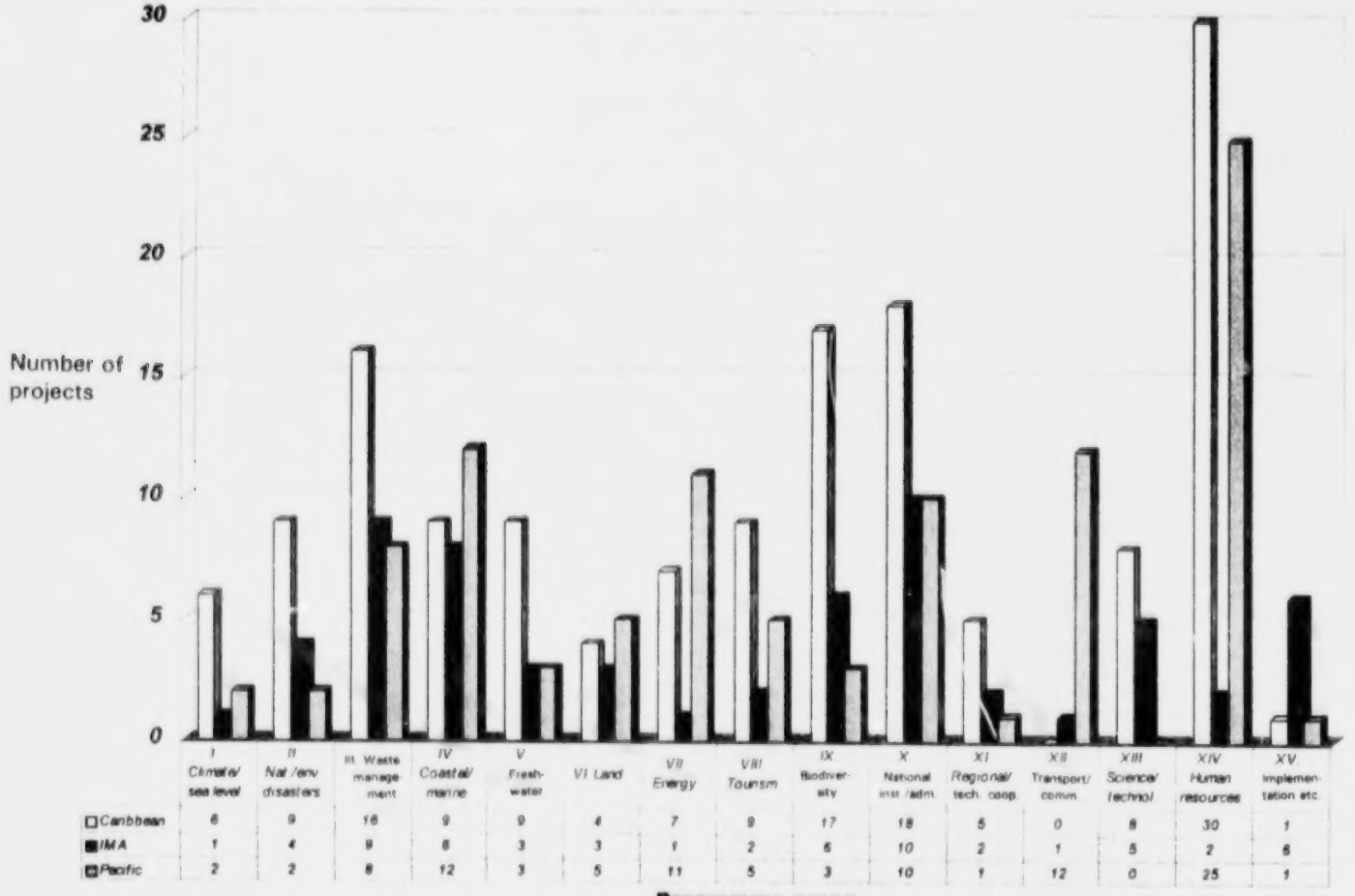
Annex IV

Number of project proposals (regional, national and total), by programme area and group of small island developing States

Programme area		Caribbean			IMA[a]			Pacific			Total		
		Reg.	Nat.	Total	Reg.	Nat.	Total	Reg.	Nat.	Total	Reg.	Nat.	Total
I.	Climate change and sea level rise	1	5	6	1	0	1	1	1	2	3	6	9
II.	Natural and environmental disasters	2	7	9	0	4	4	1	1	2	3	12	15
III.	Management of wastes	4	12	16	2	7	9	0	8	8	6	27	33
IV.	Coastal and marine resources	0	9	9	1	7	8	11	1	12	12	17	29
V.	Freshwater resources	1	8	9	0	3	3	1	2	3	2	13	15
VI.	Land resources	1	3	4	0	3	3	1	4	5	2	10	12
VII.	Energy resources	5	2	7	0	1	1	0	11	11	5	14	19
VIII.	Tourism resources	0	9	9	0	2	2	0	5	5	0	16	16
IX.	Biodiversity resources	1	16	17	0	6	6	0	3	3	1	25	26
X.	National institutions and administrative capacity	4	14	18	2	8	10	0	10	10	6	32	38
XI.	Regional institutions and technical cooperation	5	0	5	1	1	2	1	0	1	7	1	8
XII.	Transport and communication	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	12	12	0	13	13
XIII.	Science and technology	1	7	8	0	5	5	0	0	0	1	12	13
XIV.	Human resources development	18	12	30	0	2	2	3	22	25	21	36	57
XV.	Implementation, monitoring and review	0	1	1	0	6	6	1	0	1	1	7	8
	Total	**43**	**105**	**148**	**7**	**56**	**63**	**21**	**80**	**101**	**70**	**241**	**311**

[a] Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and Atlantic.

Project proposals, by programme area and region



	I Climate/ sea level	II Nat./env. disasters	III Waste manage ment	IV Coastal/ marine	V Fresh- water	VI Land	VII Energy	VIII Tourism	IX Biodiver- sity	X National inst./adm.	XI Regional/ tech. coop.	XII Transport/ comm.	XIII Science/ technol	XIV Human resources	XV Implemen- tation etc.
Caribbean	6	9	16	9	9	4	7	9	17	18	5	0	8	30	1
IMA	1	4	9	8	3	3	1	2	6	10	2	1	5	2	6
Pacific	2	2	8	12	3	5	11	5	3	10	1	12	0	25	1

Caribbean + IMA + Pacific

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Twenty-second special session
Item 8 of the provisional agenda*
Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Letter dated 16 August 1999 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

At the request of the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, I have the honour to transmit to you the Majuro Statement on Climate Change. The Majuro Statement was adopted by the participants at the first Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Workshop on the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol. The workshop was held at the Outrigger Resort Majuro from 14 to 16 July 1999, and was attended by experts from AOSIS, as well as from industrialized countries. Several United Nations agencies were represented.

As requested by the participants, my Government is seeking your assistance in having the Majuro Statement circulated as an official document of the United Nations under the agenda of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Jackeo A. **Relang**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/S-22/1

99-25278 (E) 070999

Annex

The Majuro Statement on Climate Change

The participants in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Workshop on the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Having met in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, from 14 to 16 July 1999:

Expressed their gratitude to His Excellency the President, the Government and the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands for their timely invitation and generosity in hosting the workshop;

Recognized the importance of this first AOSIS workshop, and the significance of holding it in a low-lying small island State, noting that the Marshall Islands is acknowledged in studies by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to be especially vulnerable to the impacts and consequences of climate change. They also recognized that the situation and vulnerability of the Marshall Islands reflected the condition of other small island States, and underlined the urgency and seriousness of the concerns of the AOSIS countries;

Welcomed the presence at the workshop of important developed country partner the United Nations and regional organizations. AOSIS expressed deep appreciation for their generosity and support for the workshop;

Reaffirmed the ultimate objective as laid down in article 2 of the Convention, and recognized the commitments of parties included in annex I under article 3 of the Kyoto Protocol as an important first step in reaching that objective,

Noted the high importance of domestic action in achieving those commitments and that the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) could be an important tool for complying with part of these commitments through projects in countries not included in annex I of the Convention to assist them achieve sustainable development and contribute to the ultimate objective of the Convention;

Noted further that the CDM must become a credible and viable mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol and that the certified emission reductions generated by the CDM must be additional to that which would have otherwise occurred and should have real, measurable and long-term benefits related to the mitigation of climate change;

Stressed that the developing countries, in particular the least developed and small island developing States among them, because of their vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change and exposure to natural disasters, require special capacity-building initiatives;

Stressed further that vulnerability assessment and adaptation are of the highest priority to members of AOSIS and that the implementation of adaptation activities require, as essential components, capacity-building and the transfer of technology, and noted also the importance of renewable energy to small island States;

Resolved to work together constructively to make substantial progress on the decisions contained in the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, within the time-frames set out therein, and for a timely entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, while accommodating the needs and reasonable expectations of all parties;

Resolved also to work together to coordinate donor activities and domestic priorities to more effectively address capacity-building and adaptation needs of small island

developing States, and recognized the Norway Small Island Developing States workshop, Australia's South Pacific workshop and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme Climate Change conference and round table in the Cook Islands as key opportunities for addressing these;

Called for further work to be done on the issue of adaptation technology, especially for coastal zone management and protection;

Requested AOSIS and the delegation of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to bring this Statement to the attention of the international community, in particular through the twenty-second special session of the United Nations General Assembly to review the Barbados Programme of Action on the sustainable development of small island developing States, the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention at its fifth session and to the relevant regional workshops and meetings.

First Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) workshop on the Clean Development Mechanism

Majuro, 16 July 1999